

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

Atty. Ref.: **4662-269**

**DIRKS et al**

Conf. No.: **2078**

Serial No. **10/772,413**

Group: **3775**

Filed: **February 6, 2004**

Examiner: **Reimers, Annette R.**

For: **BONE FIXING DEVICE**

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March 17, 2009

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT VI**

Sir:

The following comments and amendments are intended to be fully responsive to the non-final Official Action<sup>1</sup> dated December 23, 2008, which set a nominal response due date of March 23, 2009.

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121, each section of the subject Amendment (e.g., Claim Amendments, Specification Amendments, Drawing Amendments and Remarks) as may be appropriate to the issues raised in the Official Action to which this paper responds, begins on a separate page. Changes to the original text, claims and the like are shown by striking through language to be deleted and underlining of language to be added.

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<sup>1</sup> In a telephone message of January 9, 2009, Examiner Araj confirmed that the subject Official Action was "non-final" and that box 2a) checked "final" on the Office Action Summary page was merely a clerical error.